



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 10

1200 Sixth Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98101

December 8, 1998

Reply To

Attn Of: ECL-115

(b) (6)

Olympic Environmental Council

(b) (6)

Port Angeles, WA 98362

Dear Ms. Schanfald:

Thank you for your continued interest in the Rayonier pulp mill site in Port Angeles, Washington. We have carefully reviewed your request to pursue a criminal investigation into the release of contaminated groundwater into the Strait of Juan de Fuca. This release occurred while Rayonier was conducting an interim action to excavate contaminated soil from the "finishing room" area under an Agreed Order with the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology).

We have discussed this matter with Ecology. As you are probably aware, Ecology has issued a fine against Rayonier for this release. We believe it is appropriate for Ecology to continue to take the lead in responding since the spill occurred while Rayonier was operating under Ecology's Order. Ecology has also been delegated the authority to implement the NPDES compliance program.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, you may contact me at (206)553-7151 or Joanne LaBaw at (206)553-2594.

Sincerely,

Mike Gearheard  
Acting Director  
Environmental Cleanup Office

cc: Garin Shrieve, Dept. of Ecology



CONCURRENCES						
Initials:	<i>JLB</i>	<i>EMK</i>	<i>AW</i>			
Name:	J. LaBaw	E. McKenna	A. Wong			
Date:	12/2/98	12/3/98	12/7/98			